Mines (Ind)

INDIANA MINE RESCUE ASSOCIATION

18th Annual Mine Rescue, Benchman and Pre-Shift Contest
Vincennes, Indiana
June 7-8, 2006

FEATURE STORY INSIDE:
Submarine Mine Disaster
May 1, 1920

History and Origin of Mine Rescue

Throughout history, stories of mine disasters like the Submarine Mine disaster and others like it have made mine rescue synonymous with courage and with heroism of near legendary proportions.

Mine rescue stories illustrate the determination and tenacity that are the hallmarks of mine rescue. They are stories of disasters, of hope, and of rescue in the face of overwhelming odds, and finally there are stories of a select few who risk their own lives to save the lives of others. And this is what mine rescue is all about!

In this country, the first recorded mine disaster took place near Richmond, Virginia in 1839. Since that time, records show that thousands of miners in this country have lost their lives in fires, roof falls, explosions, and inundations. In one form or another, mine rescue has been around as long as underground mining. But, it wasn't always the well-organized team effort that we know today.

In its earliest days, mine rescue was a haphazard effort at best. Rescue parties were little more than groups of miners and other volunteers who happened to be at the mine at the time of the disaster. As heroic and well intentioned as their efforts may have been, these people were ill equipped for the work at hand. They had no mine rescue training, no equipment and no reliable breathing gear. The odds were against them. All too often, their names were added to the already large list of those who died in the disasters.

In the United States, the turn of the century was a particularly hazardous time to be a miner, as by the number of those who died in disasters at that time.

The Monongah disaster of 1907, for example, claimed 362 lives. Two-hundred fifty-nine (259) died in the Cherry disaster of 1909. In 1907, 239 miners lost their lives in the Darr disaster. The Marianna disaster of 1908 claimed 154 lives.

Continued Inside

Besides being a time marked by great disasters, the early 1900's also ushered in some important events which marked the origins of mine rescue as we know it today.

In 1907, a self-contained breathing apparatus (a Draeger) was first introduced in this country. The introduction of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) meant that, for the first time, those entering mines filled with irrespirable air could carry their own breathing air along with them. Of course, the amount of time the rescuers could stay underground was naturally limited by the amount of oxygen their gear provided, but it was a start.

The new SCBAs were first used to fight a mine fire in Butte, Montana in 1907, and they went on to figure in the success of many future mine rescue efforts. Even though rescuers now had reliable breathing protection, their efforts were still hampered by lack of organization, training, and equipment.

In 1908, an early apparatus crew of five men entered a mine after a disaster in Star Junction, Pennsylvania. At first glance, this attempt to be a forerunner of today's team rescues, but the effort was not a highly organized one, and the crew was not trained specifically for mine rescue work. At this point, the idea of using an organized specially trained and equipped group or team of individuals was an idea still in its formative stages.

In 1910, however, the U.S. Bureau of Mines was formed and with it came the organization, training and team element that mine rescue so badly needed.

The Bureau established a network of specially outfitted railroad cars and placed them at strategic locations throughout the mining area of the United States. Each car served as a base of operations for a group of individuals trained and equipped specifically for mine rescue work.

Because their breathing gear's full head covering resembled a deep sea diver's helmet, the groups became known as helmet crews. The crews were trained to respond quickly and professionally to disasters in their own districts, much as modern teams do.

The new helmet crews were called on to lend a hand at several major disasters and they were responsible for saving the lives of scores of trapped miners. Although the crew's access to breathing gear and other equipment was a great help to them, their success could be attributed to more than that. For the first time, the rescuers had the training and organization they needed to turn an uncoordinated, often even chaotic, rescue attempt into a well coordinated, efficient group effort. The birth of the early crews clearly marked the beginning of modern mine rescue teams.

As we have seen, the history of underground mining is filled with such accounts of disaster. Through the years, disaster has claimed thousands of lives in the United States alone. And this is not the end of the story. Disasters still can occur. But there is one bright spot in this otherwise bleak picture of death and destruction. The loss of life and property would have been much greater if it weren't for the work of mine rescue, from early chaotic rescue efforts to today's highly professional and organized team rescues.

Today, miners travel underground secure in the knowledge that disaster should strike, mine rescue teams will make every possible attempt to rescue them and will keep trying until they'd searched every corner of the mine and they know the rescuers won't give up until they have exhausted all hope of ever finding them alive.

This is the mine rescue tradition.

18th Annual
Indiana Mine Rescue, Bench And Preshift Contests

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday - June 6, 2006
Golf Outing

10:00 am	Golf Outing	Bicknell Country Club Shotgun start
3:00 pm (time approx. after golf)		Wheelbarrow Raffle Drawing and Barbecue Buffet

Wednesday – June 7, 2006
Judges and Participants Registration/Bench & Preshift Contests
Location – Vincennes University Technology Center

7:00 am - 6:00 pm	Team/Judges Registration and Contests	VU Tech Center

Thursday - June 8, 2006
Mine Rescue Contest, Vincennes University Technology Center

7:00 am	Team Lock-up	Beless Gym (corner of Indianapolis and Chestnut)
	Late Team Registrations	
7:05 am	Written Examinations	
8:00 am	Competition	Intramural Fields

Lunch provided for all participants courtesy of Sunrise Coal LLC.

The awards ceremony will commence immediately following the field competitions.

INDIANA MINE RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Vincennes, Indiana
June 7-8, 2006

PRESIDENT/MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Rodney Dilbeck

SECRETARY
Pam Harrington

TREASURER
Gary Timmons

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE CHARIMAN
Jeff Wirth

AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Mike Stanley

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Gary Timmons

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Tommy Sutton

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
John Stachura, Jr.

CONTEST COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
Vernon Stumbo

PRE-SHIFT CHAIRMAN
Mark Odum

BENCH CHAIRMAN
Charles Jones

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Ron Bucci
Cheryl Adams
Mike Workman

INDIANA MINE RESCUE ASSOCIATION
2006 MINE RESCUE, BENCHMAN AND PRESHIFT CONTEST
Judges/Officials

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Cheryl Adams – IN
Mike Conley – IL
Bruce Harris – IN
Camille Hutchinson – AL
Scott Lee – IL
Larry Miller – EFS
Marsha Price – IN
Denise Ratliff – KY
Keith Roberts – IN
Pat Stanfield – KY
Albert Strate – IN
Randy Weekly – AL
Jeff Williams – IN

Beth Anderson – IN
Jim Coomes – IN
Jim Henshaw – IN
Gary Jones – IN
Phil Long – IL
Mary Nowikowski – IN
Mike Pruitt – MNM (KY)
Mike Rennie – IN
Bryan Sargeant – IN
Jason Stoltz – IN
Sara Stumbo – IN
Dave Whitcomb – IN
Art Wooten - IL

Ken Champley – IL
Dean Cripps – IL
Bob Huff – IN
Steve Kattenbraker – IL
G.O. McDaniel – IL
Jaye Poston – IN
Dan Ramsey – IN
Ed Ritchie – IN
Ron Stahlhut – IN
Duffy Stradtner – IN
Vern Stumbo – IN
Bill Williams – EFS

Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals

Pat Campbell
Jerry Odle
Bill Sanders

Triad Mining, Inc.

David McLimore
Brian O'Dea

Kentucky Department of Mines and Minerals

Lewis Compton
Danny Knott

Indiana Bureau of Mines & Mine Safety

Don McCorkle

Vincennes University Technology Center

Ron Bucci
Ruth Messel

Special Volunteer

Joe Gladson

PARTICIPATING MINE RESCUE TEAMS
June 8, 2006

ALABAMA

Bevill State Community College, Blue Team.....Sumiton, Alabama

Keith Chaney, Captain	Ben Jackson
Tim Bynum	Ricky McGuire
Scott Miles	P.R. Jones – Trainer

Bevill State Community College, Green Team.....Sumiton, Alabama

Greg Cox, Captain	Jack Rexrode
Wayne Garmon	Tim Cooley
David Terry	Steve Gann
P.R. Jones - Trainer	

Jim Walter Resources, JWR Mine #5.....Brookwood, Alabama

Larry McGiboney, Captain	Steve Barnes
John Morse	Donnie Pennington
Danny Dabb	Chuck Garrison
Jim Steadman - Trainer	

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June 8, 2006

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David Terry
P.R. Jones - Trainer

Jack Roscoe
Tim Cooley
Steve Gann

Jim Walter Resources, JWR Mine #5 ..... Brookwood, Alabama
Larry McGibboney, Captain
John Morse
Danny Dabb
Jim Steadman - Trainer

Steve Barnes
Donnie Pennington
Chuck Gardison

PARTICIPATING MINE RESCUE TEAMS
June 8, 2006

ILLINOIS

Arclar Co. LLC, Willow Lake.....Equality, Illinois

Lester Bryant – Captain	Joe Drone
Shawn Miller	Terry Monroe
Bob Wiman	Kevin Rice
Brian Britton	Bill Chubb
Tom Patterson - Trainer	

Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, IL State.....Benton, Illinois

Kevin Hills – Captain	Dustin Patterson
Israel Burtis	Marcus Tso
Mike Calvert	Justin Cavitt
Jim Fishback	Benji Bowlin
Bill Patterson - Trainer	John Smith - Trainer

Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, IL State.....Springfield, Illinois

Jim Bowsher – Captain	Scott Brown
John Reber	Kenny Summer
Gary Ogden	Ken Price
Andrew James	Jay Mattern
Shawn Busby	Dolly Monte – Trainer

PARTICIPATING MINE RESCUE TEAMS
June 8, 2006

ILLINOIS

International Coal Group, Viper Mine.....Williamsville, Illinois

Paul Perrine – Captain	Brett Bushong
Alan Setzer	Brad Kaufman
Brandon Sanson	Mark Booth
Ty Hunt	Denny Alderman
Pete Bryant - Trainer	

The American Coal Company, Galatia Mine.....Harrisburg, Illinois

Tim Kirkpatrick – Captain, Trainer	Joe Myers
Mike Welch	Brian Hunsaker
Mike Smith	Scott Webb
Lennie Hanner	Mike Calvert

White County Coal, LLC, Team Pattiki.....Carmi, Illinois

Mike Emery – Captain	Brock Patterson
Lonnie Garrett	Shawn Batty
Andy Murphy	Todd Blair
Phillip Fox	Mike Fraulini
Eric Clements	Phillip Kittinger – Trainer

PARTICIPATING MINE RESCUE TEAMS
June 8, 2006

INDIANA

*Gibson County Coal, Gibson.....Princeton, Indiana

Terry Phegley – Captain	Jim Newton
Chris Sargeant	Danny Lovell
Rodney Dilbeck	Bruce Thompson
Josh Gibson	Zach Brown
Mike Stanley - Trainer	

Indiana State Team, Indiana Bureau of Mines....Vincennes, Indiana

Tony Wilson – Captain	Julie Bedwell
Eric Head	Terry Thombleson
Mike Workman	Bobby Mowery
Tory Hinton	Tim Riggleman
Greg Xanders – Trainer	

*Combination Team Participant

PARTICIPATING MINE RESCUE TEAMS
June 8, 2006

Kentucky

*Bluegrass Coal Company, Bluegrass Mine Rescue Team…Clay, KY

Joel Bradley – Captain	Mike Harris
John Sadler	David Seif
David Dukes	Donnie Gatten - Trainer
David Bryant	Henry Sheridan

*Highland Mining Company, Highland Mine…Morganfield, Kentucky

Jody Greenwell – Captain	Troy Cowman
Brian Phillips	Scott Milligan
Matthew Blumenstock	Jack Willingham
David Dennis	Francis French
Randy Duncan - Trainer	

James River Coal Company, James River Coal Mine Rescue Team
…….London, Kentucky

Pearl Farler, III - Captain	Jeff Roberts
Johnny Riley	Buddy Howard
Craig Lewis	Lewis Mills - Trainer
Pat Schoolcroft	Mike Sharp

* Combination Team Participant

PARTICIPATING MINE RESCUE TEAMS
June 8, 2006

KENTUCKY

Warrior Coal, LLC- Cardinal Team.....Madisonville, Kentucky

Kevin Vaughn – Captain, Trainer	Rodney James
Mike Burnett	Marcus Arnold
James Mowser	Bryan Branson
Rick Ashby	Jerry Hedgepath

*Webster County Coal, LLC, Dotiki.....Nebo, Kentucky

Jan Chambliss – Captain	Garry Mitchell
Steve Utley	David Fergerson
Gary Utley	Marc Turner
Travis Little	Gary Thweatt
Mark Evans - Trainer	

* Combination Team Participant

BENCHMAN CONTEST
PARTICIPANTS
June 7, 2006

ILLINOIS

Shawn Miller.....Arclar Co.

Brandon Sanson.....ICG Illinois, LLC

Joe Myers.....The American Coal Company

Eric Clements.....White County Coal, LLC

INDIANA

Chris Cross.....Gibson County Coal, LLC

Kenny Frantz.....Indiana State Team

KENTUCKY

Dwight Baker.....Bluegrass Coal Company

Francis French.....Highland Mining Company

Scott Milligan.....Highland Mining Company

Chris Dexter.....Webster County Coal, LLC

Gary Thweatt.....Webster County Coal, LLC

PRESHIFT CONTEST PARTICIPANTS June 7, 2006

Indiana

Joby Johnson.....Gibson County Coal LLC

Kentucky

David Bryant.....Bluegrass Coal Company

Henry Sheridan.....Bluegrass Coal Company

David Dennis.....Highland Mining Company

Jeff Clark.....Ken American Resources, Inc.

Danny Hendrix.....Ken American Resources, Inc.

David Mackey.....Ken American Resources, Inc.

Rodney James.....Warrior Coal LLC

Barry Rickard.....Warrior Coal LLC

Rick Ashby.....Warrior Coal LLC

Mark Evans.....Webster County Coal, LLC

PRESIDENT CONTEST
PARTICIPANTS
June 7, 2008

Indiana

Toby Johnson ..... Gibson County Coal LLC

Kentucky

David Bryant ..... Blue Grass Coal Company

Henry Shadden ..... Blue Grass Coal Company

David Dennis ..... Pyramid Mining Company

Jeff Clark ..... Ken American Resources, Inc.

Danny Hendrix ..... Ken American Resources, Inc.

Doug Medley ..... Ken American Resources, Inc.

Rodney Dennis ..... Warrior Coal LLC

Barry Rickard ..... Warrior Coal LLC

Rick Ashby ..... Warrior Coal LLC

Mark Evans ..... Webster County Coal, LLC

MINE RESCUE TROPHY SPONSORS

First Place

United Central Industrial Supply

Second Place

CSE Corporation

Third Place

Black Beauty Coal Company, Air Quality #1 Mine

BENCHMAN'S TROPHY SPONSORS

First Place

Holmes Safety Association, Indiana Council

Second Place

Five Star Mining, Inc.

Third Place

Excel Mining Systems

PRESHIFT TROPHY SPONSORS

First Place

Gibson County Coal LLC

Second Place

Cloud Nine

Third Place

Triad Mining, Inc.

GOVERNOR'S TROPHY (combination team)

Indiana Coal Council and Vincennes University

2006 CONTEST SPONSORS

Aramark Uniform Services
Black Beauty Coal Company
Carroll Engineering, Inc.
Chase Pump & Equipment
Cloud Nine
Conex Inc.
Continental Conveyor & Equipment Co.
Donan Engineering Co., Inc.
Dougglass Service Inc.
Evansville Bolt & Nut
Fairmont Supply
Fasloc, Inc.
Frette Energy Company, Inc.
Gibson County Coal LLC
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Peacock Leather Mining Products
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Raben Tire Co. Inc.
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Vincennes Industrial Supply
Vincennes University Foundation, Inc.
Wallace Auto Parts
Warex Corporation
White River Coal Inc.

INDIANA MINE RESCUE ASSOCIATION

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

CECIL E. O'DELL
MICHAEL KENSEK

In remembrance of past lifetime members:

CLEMENT M. DOVIDAS
JOHN A. STACHURA, SR.
MAURICE S. CHILDERS

INDIANA MINE RESCUE , BENCHMAN AND PRESHIFT CONTEST RESULTS 1989 - 2005

	CONTEST	BENCHMAN	PRESHIFT
1989	White County Coal Corp. Pattiki Mine	Monterey Coal Co/No. 2 Silver Team - Terry Renken	
1990	Kerr-McGee Coal Corp. Galatia Mine	Amax Coal Co/Wabash Mine Gray Team - Les Richards	
1991	Peabody Coal Company Eagle #2 Team	Peabody Coal Co/Camp Complex David Gatten	
1992	Kerr-McGee Coal Corp. Galatia Mine	Peabody Coal Co/Camp Complex David Gatten	
1993	Monterey Coal Company Pathfinders Team	Monterey Coal Co/Pathfinders Ken Price	
1994	Peabody Coal Company Camp Complex Team	Kerr-McGee Coal Corporation Galatia Mine - Joe Myers	
1995	Kerr-McGee Coal Corp. Galatia Mine	Costain Coal Co./Costain Team Todd Watson	
1996	White County Coal Corp. Pattiki Mine	Peabody Coal Co/Marissa Mine Wayne Shook	
1997	White County Coal Corp. Pattiki Mine	White County Coal Corp/Pattiki James Fishback	
1998	Peabody Coal Company Camp Complex Team	Lodestar Energy, Inc. West Ky. Team - Todd Watson	
1999	The American Coal Company Galatia Mine	Lodestar Energy, Inc. West Ky Team - Todd Watson	

INDIANA MINE RESCUE , BENCHMAN AND PRESHIFT
CONTEST RESULTS 1989 - 2005

	CONTEST	BENCHMAN	PRESHIFT
2000	Peabody Coal Company Camp Complex Team	Lodestar Energy, Inc. Baker Team - Todd Watson	
2001	Indiana Bureau of Mines Indiana State Team	White County Coal LLC James Fishback	
2002	Webster County Coal, LLC Dotiki Mine	Lodestar Energy, Inc. Baker Team - Todd Watson	
2003	Webster County Coal, LLC Dotiki Mine	Turris Coal Company Turris Team – Guy Hunt	
2004	Highland Mining Company Highland 9	The American Coal Company Joe Myers	Solar Sources Inc. – Monroe City Mine Joby Johnson
2005	Highland Mining Company Highland 9	Highland Mining Company Scott Milligan	Gibson County Coal – Team Gibson Joby Johnson

RECORDED

INDIANA COAL MINE DISASTERS

DATE	MINE NAME	LOCATION	LIVES LOST	TYPE
11-21-1878	Sullivan	Sullivan, Indiana	8	Explosion
12-26-1896	Oswald	Princeton, Indiana	7	Explosion
03-22-1905	Oswald	Princeton, Indiana	9	Explosion
01-14-1907	Deering No. 7	Clinton, Indiana	7	Explosion
03-20-1909	Sunnyside	Evansville, Indiana	6	Explosion
12-03-1919	No. 3	Jacksonville, Indiana	6	Explosion
05-03-1920	Submarine	Clinton, Indiana	5	Explosion
02-20-1925	City	Sullivan, Indiana	52	Explosion
12-09-1926	Francisco No. 2	Francisco, Indiana	37	Explosion
01-28-1931	Little Betty	Dugger, Indiana	28	Explosion
07-15-1937	Baker	Sullivan, Indiana	20	Explosion
05-22-1941	Panhandle No. 2	Bicknell, Indiana	14	Explosion
04-30-1947	Spring Hill	Terre Haute, Indiana	8	Explosion
07-27-1948	King	Princeton, Indiana	13	Explosion
03-02-1961	Viking Mine	Terre Haute, Indiana	22	Explosion

THE DAILY CLINTONIAN

VOLUME EIGHT—NUMBER 5 | CLINTON, INDIANA, SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1920 | PRICE THREE CENTS

AS EXPLOSION IN MINE TAKES HEAVY TOLL

BLAST TAKES LIVES OF WORKERS AND RESCUERS

BLAST TAKES LIVES OF WORKERS AND RESCUERS

Two Die, Five Injured at "Submarine"

Two men were killed and five injured in a gas explosion at the Ferguson-Spears "Submarine" mine, which occurred about 7 o'clock this morning. On account of it being Saturday, hardly any men were at work, only about forty day men being in the mine at the time.

Johnnie Howe, a pumper, leading the party of day men, had gone into the eleventh south entry, where they had been doing some track work, when the explosion occurred. This part of the mine is a mile or more from the bottom of the shaft. Coal was not being mined in that section.

The theory advanced regarding the explosion is that Jimmie Needham, the fire boss, whose duty is to make the rounds at midnight, and mark the places dangerous or safe for the workmen, had failed to inspect this part of the mine. By those advancing this theory, it is thought that he presumed that there would be little work done on Saturday and for that reason did not go into that section, but it is not known whether this part was marked by him or whether he neglected to do so.

John Stevely, deputy mine inspector, took charge of the rescue party which brought the injured men and the body of Wilson out to the top.

Up to noon today the body of Howe, the pumper, had not been recovered.

Four of the party led by Mr. Stevely ran into considerable gas while making efforts at rescue and with some difficulty were brought back to the air.

Efforts were being made at noon to get the mine rescue car to the mine. It was not known whether the car was at Terre Haute, Vincennes or Shelburn, and long-distance calls were made to these cities in the effort to locate the car.

A number of miners' safety lamps were obtained from neighboring mines and other men volunteered to aid the party led by Mr. Stevely, in attempts to get out the body of Mr. Howe.

The explosion did not do much damage to the mine, and the thirty or more men who were working in other parts of the mine when the explosion occurred, all got to the top safely.

Harry Roe, another pumper, who was going with Howe and stopped to look after some work a considerable distance from the scene of the explosion was knocked down and stunned, but not injured. Other workmen, in various parts of the mine, were knocked down by the explosion, but none were hurt.

Lee Stewart, who was only slightly injured, was able to go to his room at a local hotel, after his hurts had been attended to at a local physician's office. He saved himself when the blast came by falling on his face. He

was not burned except on the back of his neck.

Sam Woods, of Sanford, who was taken to St. Anthony's hospital, was able to walk, but was badly burned about the face. It was feared that he had suffered internal injuries in being thrown against coal or timbers by the violence of the explosion.

Eli Fulkerson, of Terre, wore short sleeves and this caused his arms to be badly burned. His face was also burned. He was taken to St. Anthony's hospital. He has a family living at Terre Haute.

John Whitmarsh, Robert Montgomery and Lee Stewart were brought to the office of a local physician. Mr. Whitmarsh was badly bruised and had a scalp wound and a probable fracture of his collar bone.

Robert Montgomery was considerably bruised, but his injuries were considered slight. He was taken to his home, after receiving medical attention.

Andrew Wilson, the mine boss, sustained a fractured skull, either by being thrown against some object, or be being struck by the flying coal, timbers or other object. He was not burned in any way by the explosion.

The Daily Clintonian - May 1, 1920

FIVE MEN DIE IN EXPLOSION AT SUBMARINE

Five men are dead and five are injured as result of an explosion at 7:45 o'clock this morning in the Submarine mine, owned by Ferguson & Spears, northwest of Terre Haute.

The body of John Howe was still in the mine early this afternoon and the smoke and gas from the explosion had driven the rescuing party back until they were unable to reach the body.

Smith, Hughes and the man not identified were members of a party attempting to recover the body of Howe and were killed by escaping gas.

The explosion occurred shortly after the day force of 75 men had entered the mine for work, but the blast was at the extreme end of a lead of the mine and periled only a small portion of the workers.

The first news of the explosion reached Clinton, nearest city to the mine, at 8:30 o'clock in a call for physicians and ambulances.

The news of the disaster caused a great deal of excitement in Terre Haute, as it was known that several men from this city were employed in the shaft.

The mine employed a total of 400 men, and had a capacity of 2,000 tons of coal each day.

No attempt had been made this morning to estimate the damage to the mine, as all efforts of the workers were directed to rescuing the killed and wounded.

Fulkerson was brought in Hickman's ambulance to his home, 1700 Wabash avenue, where physicians were called to attend his injuries.

Gas Hinders Rescue Work

Considerable trouble with smoke and gas was being experienced by the rescuers who were seeking to recover the body of Howe, and early this afternoon it had been impossible to reach the place where he was known to have last been. There was no lack of men volunteering to go down into the mine and assist in the work of

clearing away the obstructions in an attempt to reach Howe, and although several of the men were overcome by gas and had to be carried out, there were always plenty of others to take their place.

A call was sent several hours after the accident for the rescue car at Vincennes. It was at first thought that there would be no trouble in reaching the spot where Howe had been working, but after several of the men had been overcome, it was found necessary to call the car, although attempts to reach Howe by the workers was not slackened in the least.

Howe's address could not be learned at the mine, the only information in this connection being from the men who had worked with him who stated that he lived in the south end of the city. The bodies of the dead and the injured were taken to Clinton and Terre Haute, those of the seriously injured going to the hospital and those who were only slightly injured being taken direct to their homes.

So far as could be ascertained, none of the injuries to the men will result fatally, and aside from the two already reported dead, no other deaths are expected.

Owner Directs Rescuers

Mr. Spears, one of the mine owners, himself went to the bottom and directed the rescue operations, calling from the point for volunteers from the top, and directing the work of those who were already down.

As to the cause of the gas explosion, which resulted so disastrously, very little could be learned, and few theories were being expressed. Some of the men said that Howe, who had gone to the far end of the lead, which was the eleventh south, after a fuse, had probably attempted to light his lamp and had in this way set off the gas. Aside from this possible explanation, no theory could be advanced by either the men who were in the mine or by the foreman.

Some seven or eight men in addition to those killed and injured were in the eleventh south lead at the time of the explosion, but fortunately they were near the entry and were able to make their escape.

Other leads in the mine were not affected save by the rush of air which was the first warning that something had happened.

Rescue crews were working behind the air in an attempt to reach Howe, and were also seeking to gain entrance from other leads, but doubt was expressed as to whether the body would be recovered before the rescue car arrived.

Ambulances from Hickman's, Martin's, and Ryan's undertaking establishments all answered the call from Terre Haute, as well as ambulances from Clinton.

The Terre Haute Tribune, May 1, 1920

AFTER-DAMP FATAL TO RESCUE WORKERS

Gas Suffocation of Three Adds to Toll of Disaster at Mine

The Dead

ANDREW WILSON, mine boss, 609 South Eighth street.

JOHNNIE HOWE, Terre Haute.

JIMMIE SMITH, of the 1300-block South Eighth street.

ART THOMPSON, of Terre Haute.

FRANK HUGHES, Eureka street.

The Injured

John Whitmarsh, 609 South Eighth street
Robert Montgomery, 819 South Fifth street.
Eli Fulkerson, Terre Haute, taken to St. Anthony's hospital.
Lee Stewart, Carbon.
Sam Woods, Sanford, taken to St. Anthony's hospital.
Jimmy Needham, fire boss.

BULLETIN: 2:30 P.M.
Efforts to revive Needham proved successful. He was taken to St. Anthony's hospital.

Another death toll in the Ferguson-Spears mine disaster came near noon today when three members of the rescue parties endeavoring to get out the body of Howe, were suffocated by after-damp, following in the wake of the explosion, and another was badly overcome by gas.

The rescuers who succumbed to the after-damp are Jimmie Smith, Art Thompson and Frank Hughes. They got in ahead of the air in their efforts to bring out Howe's body.

Pulmotors were used in vain efforts to revive Smith and Thompson when they were brought out of the mine, shortly after noon.

James Penman, who was leading the searching party that found Hughes shortly after 1 o'clock, stated that Hugh's heart was beating when he reached him, but efforts to revive him were in vain.

At 12:45 o'clock Dr. D.C. Shaff went into the mine to work on Jimmie Needham, the fire boss, who was badly overcome by gas, in an effort to save his life. At 1:30 o'clock, it was reported from the mine that the physician and others were still making frantic efforts to revive Needham.

Jimmy Smith, who was between 40 and 45 years of age, lived in the 1500-block on South Eighth street. He leaves a widow and five children. Mr. Smith was the leader of the party that got out the body of Andrew Wilson, this morning.

Art Thompson, about 45 to 50 years old, lived at Terre Haute. He leaves a widow and a step-daughter.

Frank Hughes, a middle-aged man leaves a widow and seven children, living at 426 Eureka street.

John Stevely, Matthew Kerr, Walter Burnside and other experienced mine men, were behind the men who were suffocated.

The body of Howe was recovered about 1:30 o'clock, this afternoon.

The Daily Clintonian – May 1, 1920

MINE RESCUE WORK SHOWS LOCAL MEN WERE HEROES

Smith Apparently Trying to Help Companion; Judging by Position of Bodies When Found; Pushed Ahead of Air, Mile From Base of Shaft and Around Past Body They Were Looking For; Rescue Station and Hospital Needs Brought Out by accident; Three Funerals Here Today

Deputy Mine Inspector John Stevely and some of the other men who worked in the Ferguson-Spears mine, after Saturday morning's explosion, have been interviewed and give further details of the rescue efforts and the tragic fate of three of the first rescue party.

The bodies of James Smith and Art Thomas were found 30 feet inside the break-through at a point on the eleventh south entry, which proved to be 330 feet beyond the body of Howe,

the second of two victims of the explosion. It appeared as if Smith had succumbed while trying to pull back the body of his companion, Thomas.

Both these men were alive when found, but were nearly gone. Dave Salmoad, room boss, Matthew Kerr and Dave Brown, first aid men, worked with these men. Brown and Kerr taking the lead in giving them artificial respiration. Mt. Stevely and Mr. Salmoad were helping.

They soon found themselves being overcome and had to take the men by the shoulders and drag them several hundred feet up the entry into better air. The fan was being run rapidly, but the fumes were bad.

The body of Frank Hughes was found quite a distance away and Needham, who was the one resuscitated, was in still another place. James Penman reported Hughes still showing life when he got to him.

Had the break-through been all properly shut off early, the rescuers think, the air would have been better where these men were. They might not have gone down or might have been revived. Mr. Salmoad told Mr. Stevely he had sent men to have the break-throughs shut off but later had to go and see to it himself as it was not thoroughly done. The four men who had pushed in too fast for the air and had gone, with the air coursers, beyond the point where Howe's body was, were from 30 to 45 minutes ahead of the Inspector Stevely, Dave Brown, Matthew Kerr and the others with them.

These men, risking their own safety, yet using precautions, are credited with doing the good work that saved the life of Needham. The pulmotor might have helped some later, when taken down and applied, but without their work in knowing how to give the artificial respirations and risking their lives in going in after him, the lungmotor would have had no chance and, even without it, he likely would have regained consciousness.

One of the biggest handicaps was the lack of mine safety lamps. The first four men took three lamps with them, all there were at hand. Stevely brought four with his party, some from the city, others picked up at mines on the way. Later, when he learned the four men were down, Mr. Stevely came out for more lamps, going to other mines and back into Clinton by automobile.

Thomas Fields, superintendent of Jackson Hill 5, James Nesbit, Martin Hutchinson, Morgan Thomas, Walter Barnside, Jackie Neal and a few others deserve special mention, but the names of all could not be learned.

There were plenty of men willing to go down, but there were more down than could work to the best advantage anyway part of the time. With safety lamps costing but seven or eight dollars each, it seems strange there would not be a better supply of them around the average mine. It is reliably reported that some men crowded back late this mine, Saturday, with open lamps, taking a chance of causing a further explosion, had they come upon the unexpected gas, as did the early morning workers.

When the two men were sent to St. Anthony's hospital, Dr. Mattix told the local men there was not an empty bed.

He managed to get two beds emptied to give them a chance. This is a further evidence of the lack of sufficient facilities for caring for the injured in this vicinity.

Men of the Ferguson-Spears mine local had a sad day of it today, attending the funerals of their three fellow workers in turn, Frank Hughes, Andrew Wilson and James Smith, all of whom were victims of Saturday's disaster.

Surviving Mr. Hughes, who was 43 years old, are the widow and six children. Robert 19 years old; Grace, 17 years old; Matthew, 15 years old; Frances, 14 years old, John 6 years old, and Agnes 4 years old. He also leaves his father, Matthew Hughes, four brothers, William, Matthew, Hugh and James, and three sisters, Agnes, Mary and Elizabeth, living in Scotland.

The funeral services were held at the residence 426 Eureka street, at 11 o'clock, this morning. Rev. G.W. Horne conducted the services. Burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Mr. Wilson is survived by the widow and one daughter, Elizabeth: the mother, Mrs. Mary A. Wilson, and three brothers, James, Robert and William Wilson, of Clinton, and two sisters, Miss Agnes Wilson of Clinton, and Mrs. Jennie Hardesty, of St. Louis. Mr. Wilson was 40 years old.

The Masonic lodge attended the funeral at the residence, 609 South Eighth street, at 1:30 o'clock, this afternoon, and conducted the burial services at Riverside cemetery. The funeral was in charge of Rev. George K. Francis.

Mr. Smith, who was 43 years old, is survived by the widow and five children. Effie, 15 years old; John, 12 years old, Gene, 10 years old; Richard, 5 years old, and Mary, 3 years old.

The funeral of Mr. Smith was held at the residence, in the 1400-block South Eight street, at 3 o'clock this afternoon, with Rev. R.S. Lantz officiating.

Injured Reported Improving

James Needham, the fire boss, who was resuscitated after much work, was reported resting fairly well at St. Anthony's hospital today and it is believed he will recover.

Lee Stewart, at Clinton hotel, is able to be up and his injuries, as at first reported, have proved to be rather slight.

John Whitmarsh, of 609 South Eighth street, has a broken shoulder and a bad scalp wound, with minor cuts and bruises. He is reported getting along satisfactorily.

Robert Montgomery, of 319 South Fifth street, who is somewhat cut and bruised by the force of the explosion and free flying particles, is reported on the way to recovery.

Sam Woods and Eli Fulkerson, of Terre Haute, both taken to St. Anthony's hospital, are reported today to be apparently resting satisfactorily.

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The cause of the explosion had not been determined last night, but the theory is that a pocket of gas had formed in the eleventh entry, where mining has been discontinued for some time while repairs were being made. It was ignited when a lamp was carried into it by one of the miners. Although the force of the explosion was felt by men throughout the mine, none of the miners except those near the entry were injured.

Terre Haute Sunday Star – May 2, 1920

2006 INDIANA MINE RESCUE CONTEST RESULTS

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2006 INDIANA BENCHMAN CONTEST RESULTS

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2006 INDIANA PRESHIFT CONTEST RESULTS

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2006 COMBINATION TEAM CONTEST RESULTS

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MINE RESCUE, FIELD, BENCH AND PRE-SHIFT CONTEST - PURPOSE

- The pre-shift competition promotes training in improving examiners' skills and knowledge of the law. Miners daily depend on examiners to conduct inspections at the mine and to recognize mining hazards.

- The bench competition promotes training in the skills and knowledge of maintaining and using the breathing apparatus used by a miner during a mining hazard.

- The field contest simulates a portion of a mine where there has been an incident (such as a fire or explosion) and a trained rescue team is needed.

On the track infield, two "fields" have been erected. These fields are laid out to simulate a working section inside of a mine. The teams will work through the problem and will encounter hazardous situations similar to those found in underground coal mining. The mine rescue teams will explore the mine, record all conditions found on a mine map, make roof and rib checks, make gas checks, change ventilation (if necessary), and will assist any miners who may have been injured or trapped at the section.

Each team member is provided with a breathing apparatus which supplies oxygen to the person wearing it. The mine may be oxygen deficient, or contain hazardous concentrations of methane gas and other poisonous gases.

In rescue operations speed is important since there may be injured or trapped miners. However, established mine rescue procedures must be followed to prevent additional incidents or problems and to protect the mine rescue team.

The team that completes the problem in the shortest amount of time and has received the least amount of discounts for infraction of the rules is awarded the first place trophy. These rescue contests help sharpen the knowledge and skills of rescue teams in their lifesaving work.

These rescue team members that you are observing today are sincere and dedicated miners who place the welfare of their fellow man above their own.